

Applicant(s): Joseph W. Triepels et al.
Serial No.: 09/519,551
For: DISPLAY DEVICE
Filed: March 6, 2000
Examiner: A. Abdulsalam
Group Art Unit: 2674

PHN 17,326

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 10 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 have been amended hereby.

The Action (1) rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,868,582 to Jacobi et al. (hereinafter "the Jacobi reference"); (2) rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Jacobi reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,563,554 to Okamoto et al. (hereinafter "the Okamoto reference"); and (3) rejected claims 2 through 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Regarding item (1) identified above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the Jacobi reference at least because the Jacobi reference fails to disclose or suggest a laminar substrate with opposed sides each provided with electrically conducting patterns that are electrically *through-connected via at least one opening in the laminar substrate*. Rather, the Jacobi reference teaches *a connecting module* with an upper leg and a lower leg defining a U-shaped cross-section and contact elements extending over the outside of the lower leg and through openings in the upper leg. Applicants respectfully submit that the connecting arrangement disclosed in the Jacobi reference clearly differs from that which is defined by claim 1.

The Action seems to assert, in essence, that a contact device for electrically connecting a

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printed circuit (PC) board with an liquid crystal display (LCD) panel via a U-shaped connector module that clamps an edge of the LCD panel between an upper leg and a lower leg thereof and that has contact elements which extend over the outside of the lower leg to make contact with the PC board and through openings in the upper leg so as to extend into the area on the LCD panel occupied by a plurality of contact pads reads on claim 1. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that electrically through-connecting electrically conducting patterns located on opposed sides of a laminar substrate via at least one opening in the laminar substrate is notably different from electrically connecting an LCD panel and PC board via a U-shaped clamp-like structure having contact elements that extends about the edge portion of the LCD panel. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

With respect to item (2) identified above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 10, each of which depends directly from claim 1, are patentable over the cited art (i.e., the Jacobi reference and the Okamoto reference) at least for the reason identified/discussed above with respect to claim 1. That is, the Okamoto reference, which was cited in the Action for purportedly disclosing a "liquid crystal layer (1) sandwiched by the two substrates such that the one of the optical design of the liquid crystal layer (1) includes the one that can attain electro-optical characteristics. See col. 3, 19-24", (Action, p. 4, part 3), fails to overcome the notable shortcomings discussed with respect to the Jacobi reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 10 are respectfully requested.

Regarding item (3) identified above, Applicant respectfully submit that present claims 2-9

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effectively traverse the stated rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection are respectfully requested.

In sum, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over each of the cited references and/or any proper combination thereof. Hence, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections, and all rejections of the claims, are respectfully requested.

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